

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY

"....to preserve, promote and perpetuate the blues tradition."

Louisville, Kentucky

Incorporated 1989

October 2018



Kentuckiana Blues Society Affiliate Member of The Blues Foundation 1988-2018





Photo courtesy of Keeshea Pratt.

The 23rd Garvin Gate Blues Festival will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13. As usual, this year will feature a variety of local, regional, and national blues acts. One of the standouts for the 2018 festival is Keeshea Pratt. Originally from Mississippi and now making her home in Houston, Pratt started singing at the age of six. She has shared the stage with musicians of all genres including bluesmen Bobby Rush and Eddie Cotton, opera singer Grace Bumbry, soul singer Musiq Soulchild, and gospel icon the late Reverend James Moore. In January of this year, the Keeshea Pratt Band won the International Blues Challenge contest in Memphis and the Blues Foundation crowned Keeshea queen of the 2018 festival. The band is the Saturday night headliner and will take the stage at 10:00 pm. You can find the full schedule and additional detail for Garvin Gate in this issue of the newsletter and online at http://www.garvingatebluesfestival.com/.

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Blues News

The monthly newsletter of the Kentuckiana Blues Society

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KBS LEADERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2018:

Mark Sneed - president Debbie Wilson - vice-president Chris Grube – treasurer Matt Floyd - secretary

KBS MONTHLY MEETING

If you are interested in reviewing new blues music, come on out to the KBS monthly board meeting (held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Check's Café in Germantown) and take your pick! We receive promo releases from the major blues labels as well as regional and local bands. If you review a CD, it's yours to keep!

We appreciate your support and welcome your input. If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas, etc., contact us at this address:

> **Kentuckiana Blues Society** P. O. Box 755 Louisville, KY 40201-0755 news@kbsblues.org

Our single membership is a bargain at only \$20.00 US per year. Double membership (two members at the same address, two membership cards, one newsletter) is only \$25.00 US per year, and we now offer a special band rate of \$30 per year, which includes one newsletter plus a membership card for each band member.

October 2018 Volume 31 Number 10

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Natalie Carter

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The views expressed by the authors and advertisers are their own. Contributions by anyone offering pertinent and thoughtful discussion on blues issues are welcomed.

www.kbsblues.org



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Letter From The Prez

guard Anna

Greeting blues fans,

Hope all is good in your life. The Garvin Gate Blues Festival is the final festival of the year and there is no other festival like it in this part of the country. It takes place in historic Old Louisville, it's free, and the atmosphere is like no other. It was the first blues festival I attended in Louisville and it's still my favorite event. The bands are always outstanding and the weather is a little cooler and usually not humid. What more can I say except don't miss this wonderful event! Check out pages 8-11 for more info on the festival and this year's lineup.

Our Blues in the Schools program starts September 18th and 19th and will conclude with the Blues for Youth program on Saturday October 13th at the Garvin Gate festival. As part of our mission to preserve, promote and perpetuate the blues, it has long been a goal of the Kentuckiana Blues Society to introduce young people to its music, history and traditions. Through a combined effort with Garvin Gate Blues Festival organizers Howard Rosenberg and Mike Suttles, and some additional generous sponsors, we are up and running for our second year and making plans to expand the program into the future. Please see page 13 for much more on our exciting new venture.

Don't forget, the KBS Blues Challenge band and solo/duo contests will be held on Sunday October 21st at Stevie Ray's Blues Bar. We are finalizing plans for the event as this issue goes to press, so be sure to stay tuned to your e-mail and social media for information on the schedule and entrants. The winners will represent the Kentuckiana Blues Society at the 2019 International Blues Challenge in Memphis in January. We'll have merchandise with our new logo on hand, so come by our table to say hi and stock up. I look forward to seeing you!

Mark

BIG ROCK JAZZ & BLUES FEST

Sunday, October 7, 2018

Located in Cherokee Park at Big Rock

1:00 Gabe Evens Funk Sextet
3:00 Sheryl Rouse & The Bluez Brothers
5:00 Don Krekel Orchestra

Free Admission J Silent Auction J Food & Drink Available

Elixir - A Chat with Cort and Laurie Jane

by Natalie Carter

(NC) The new album is a Sara Martin tribute? That's pretty unusual and indicates some pretty strong interest and research in old school blues. How did that come about?

(CD) Well, when I got a guitar I and went to Jim Schweickart for lessons, he was probably 19 and I was 13. I told him I wanted to learn to play "Whole Lotta Love" by Led Zeppelin and he laughs at me. He says "okay, but you know this is a Muddy Waters song?" And I said "No, I don't know who that is." And he's basically like "well, these guys stole all that stuff."

(NC) That's how everybody comes to it.

(CD) Yeah I know...that's exactly my point, that's how everybody comes to it. So I go get some Muddy Waters and I'm like...god, that's a little too...a little too...I couldn't get to it. So I listened to my Led Zeppelin version and I knew what I was hearing. And the Howlin' Wolf songs...you know, they did some of that. And I got some Eric Clapton, and he does Robert Johnson songs. So I get the Robert Johnson and it's terrifying to listen to.

(NC) Yeah, it's not where your head is at that age at all.

(CD) I know...you know, my parents were like "what's goin' on up there?" (Laughs.) But you know, you listen to Cream playing "Crossroads" and you can digest that. So, when Mike (Suttles) talked to us about this opportunity, I thought "gosh, this is my chance", because I'm never gonna get to be Led Zeppelin, showing people who Muddy Waters is, but maybe I can tell you have the water and solve the same of the world solve the world solve the same of the world solve the wor



Photo by Cheryl Jaggers

about Sara Martin...maybe we can go play these songs in more of an updated, rock and roll kinda way...

(LJD) More familiar sounding...

(CD) Familiar! Not just playing for the blues fans...the hardcore people...I want to play them for everybody.

(NC) To hopefully start them on the same journey backwards.

(CD) Yes, and so this is my one shot at something like that. And as years went on, my tastes...I became able to appreciate what I was listening to. Give me something old now and it's just great, but it wasn't always that way. I had to be led to that, you know. So that's just the thing, this is my opportunity to do something like that, that's actually relevant to where we are, and it's a cool story about a woman that I think a lot of people might have the wrong idea about.

(NC) So, Cort, I've known of you for years playing around town, but Laurie, where'd you come from? How'd you get in on this?

(LJD) You mean get started in music? In college and in high school I was into musical theater. I loved the theater side of it. I was never singing in a band...choirs were the closest I got. So it wasn't till I moved to Louisville in 2005 that I was kinda looking to sing again, and a co-worker of mine had a monthly gig at Ray Parella's on Frankfort Avenue for the Trolley Hop Fridays. He invited me to sing some songs with him and play some percussion. So that's how I got started singing out. And then I joined another friend of mine here in town, Tim Kelty, and we started a little acoustic duo. Then we added a third guy and we were called "Jessup and the Get Downs." That was my maiden name, Jessup. We had great fun for a couple of years playing cover stuff, just playing around town.

(NC) I remember the band name. And of course I remember Cort from King Sonic.

(CD) Hahaha, I don't!

(NC) Yeah, (laughing), that's part of what I remember. King Sonic always seemed to be as great a time for you guys as it was for us.

(LJD) That's how Cort and I met, was through King Sonic. Actually we didn't come out to see you...sorry, honey...but it was New Year's Eve at the Phoenix Hill Tavern. There was some 90s band, some one hit wonder and I don't even remember who it was, but my friend and I went to see them, and King Sonic, who I was already familiar with, was playing in another part of the bar. So we went over there after we heard the one song we wanted to hear from the 90s band.

(NC) So, Laurie, where are you from?

(LJD) I'm from Wisconsin. Grew up there. I did spend some time in Chicagoland, but my formative years were spent in Appleton, Wisconsin. A perfect sized town where there was enough to do but it wasn't too busy. Had a great time in high school and college. In college I bounced around a little bit but I ended up graduating from the University of Wisconsin. I ended up back at a tech school after that to get my aviation maintenance education.

(NC) Okay, I want to get back to that in a minute. Cort, are you from here? From Kentucky, I mean?

(CD) Yes, Elizabethtown. I grew up there, and when I was a kid it was a very quaint small town. You'd still go down to the square and there was a Western Auto and a place that you'd buy shoes and clothes...you know. And it's interesting that in the last 5, 6 years...people of my generation are being voted into office and making some changes. Now we have...it's no longer dry...we have a nice blues festival, we have cool restaurants and a couple of bars...city events...

(NC) So how did you two come to be playing music together?

(LJD) Well, Cort was with King Sonic when we met and I was still singing with Jessup and the Get Downs. Seems like both bands kind of came to a natural end. There wasn't really an "I'm sorry, I'm going off to play with my husband" moment or anything.

(CD) We would sit and play, you know. It's kind of funny. On our first date...or the first time I got to go over to her apartment... she's got a guitar, and she started playing it and we sang together and it sounded really, really good. And I'm looking around her apartment and there's a picture of her working on an airplane. And I'm like..."whoa, wh...what is that?" And she says, "oh, that's a B17 bomber from World War II." And I said "oh...great, well, you know...I restored a Chevrolet once." It's like everything that I've done, she just does it cooler. But yeah, we started playing together and we just enjoyed it so much. Laurie's singing style is more like a classic...

(NC) Like a torch singer?

(CD) Yeah, yeah, and I though "this is just great." It's opened so many doors for me musically.

- (LJD) Well, you know, the aviation is kind of what got me into the singing style that I have now. World War II airplanes...I really got into that stuff and we were working on them at this museum that I worked at, and the music naturally came along with it. I became a huge fan of Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, Etta James, and all that.
- (NC) So...aviation. How did that come about? You knew when you were going to school that this is what you wanted to do?
- (LJD) Oh no, not at all. I went to school, originally I think I was going to be a theater major for a week, and then I changed it to French. I was going to major in French, and then I was going to do biology...
- (CD) You just keep getting cooler. French, theater major, biology...
- (LJD) I just bounced around; I couldn't decide what I wanted to do. Nothing was grabbing me, so I kind of took the middle of the road and got a Communication Arts degree, and radio, TV and film were my focus. And so I spent some time editing films and editing little TV shows for college classes, but I really was not...it was fine, it was interesting to me, but most things are interesting to me for a period of time. I'm into a lot of different things, but this wasn't really grabbing me. While still in college, I was looking for some spice out of life, and it was really like a scene out of a movie. I was walking along the campus and on the sidewalk there, someone had written "Hang Gliding Club Meeting Tomorrow 6:00 PM". So I went "wow, that sounds like the spice that I need'.
- (NC) She IS getting cooler all the time!
- (LJD) So anyway I joined the hang gliding club and I got my rating and that was in southern Wisconsin. I worked at that place for a year, and that's where the aviation love started. I always liked airplanes but it always seemed like an untouchable career, especially for a pilot. I thought you had to be rich to get your training for that. So that was my "in" to aviation, this hang gliding stuff, and they had powered airplanes that towed the hang gliders, so it was all there in this little general aviation airport. It was so fun to be around all that. So that's why I went back to school, because I wanted to do something in aviation. So I went to get my mechanic's license...that was just a two year program.
- (NC) So, Cort, besides music, what do you do?
- (CD) I work on old nasty trucks. (Laughs.)
- (NC) So, who came up with the concept for the album? Was that Mike Suttles (of Down in the Alley Records), or did you come up with that?
- (CD) Suttles approached us and said he was thinking about doing this project. He asked if we'd be interested in being involved and if we were familiar with Sara Martin. Of course, Laurie said; we had participated in her tombstone ceremony a few years back (KBS installed a memorial headstone on Sara Martin's grave in Louisville Cemetery on September 19, 2014). We said we would love to be a part of it, but I told him that this is not *blues* the way most people play. It's more like...ragtime jazz. When you get to playing some of these songs, unless you had some sort of jazz background, it would be alien. It wouldn't be like you were playing a blues song that everybody could just jump in on. It's very old and it's very strange. So be thinking about that, but yeah, we'd love to do it. Then he came back around with the idea that we should do the whole thing. So I said, that's great, that's wonderful. But it's also, like now I have to completely digest this woman's entire catalog of work and see what we can do with it. It was a really interesting challenge. I like a challenge.
- (NC) Y'all put together some really good musicians. What was it like working with John (Hawkins)?
- (CD) John was great; I mean, he's John! He really wanted to get in there and make some good stuff happen. And some of it is not the usual John that you'll hear. I can't wait till we play it live.
- (NC) So is everyone on the album on board for Garvin Gate?
- (LJD & CD) Yes, plus we'll have an additional saxophonist. It was fun playing with all the horns.
- (NC) I loved the layout...the order of the cuts. The straight-to-vinyl stuff...what a great sound
- (JJD) You can go do that too (laughs). We did those at Guitar Emporium!
- (CD) It's the neatest thing. Guitar Emporium let us come in on Sunday when they're closed. They have a booth, it looks like a phone booth. It has one microphone in it. So, Laurie's actually in the booth, I'm outside the booth with the guitar. It's restored. It takes tokens...they tell you you've got three minutes and ten seconds or whatever, 190 seconds or something, and that's all you get. Then you get your token and you put it in there...and then you wait. And it's like slow motion...it's agonizingly slow. It picks it up and it drops it on this turntable thing...then the arm comes around here and you're still waiting...and finally it's go time.
- (LJD) And then they play it back right after you're done. It flips it over, onto a little record player inside the machine and it plays it. And it was extra magical through that machine. It's good when we listen to it now, but it was super magical when it was played through that machine.
- (NC) So how do you get it from the old record onto what would become the album? Did you record it off of the record, or...
- (CD cracks up). Well, we uh...we took a turntable to the studio. For whatever reason, these things played fine at the house, but I get them in the studio and I don't know why. I don't know why, the turntable that I brought, you just plug it straight in to the mixing board, but it would keep skipping. It would record a little bit and then it would skip. I hate recording when I am playing guitar...I get red light fever and I try to play really reserved so I don't mess up. Time is money, you know. And so the record would skip...and I was like "oh my god..."
- (LJS) And this was gonna be the easy part, you know? Just play it back.
- (CD) So I was balancing nickels on the arm...come on, come on...and (everybody cracks up) finally got it to work. And when we got the turntable home, it works fine.
- (NC) Is this a new thing at Guitar Emporium?
- (CD) Nooo... they have had it maybe about a year or two. And that's another thing. I have been a customer of Guitar Emporium since I was 18. It was actually the first place I went the first time I was able to drive my car to Louisville. So that's neat in itself. This thing doesn't get a lot of traffic and I thought maybe I could do this and get people interested in this neat machine. I've listened to all these old recordings, like a Robert Johnson or a Sylvester Weaver, and I'm thinking "I don't understand that part. What is that sound I am hearing?" It's the recording process! There's a mechanical thing happening that you *cannot* duplicate. Even if you try and apply an effect, there's stuff that you would consider wrong if you heard that, but I was listening to it and I had to have a moment after the first one. It overwhelmed me, it really did. I had to get up and walk around. I was like "I cannot believe it sounds like that." And then Steve Cooley (owner of Guitar Emporium) walks up and says "well, congratulations, you sound like old, dead black people."
- (CD) The songs we did there, we tried to do them very much like they would have been played back then. Like when I'm playing the guitar, I don't bend the strings, I don't use a pick. I tried to play it like they did back then. I guess those are our offerings for the purists out there. We took a really long look at this.
- (LJD) It was a natural feeling after we got all of her recordings. You know, she's got the **Famous Moanin'Mama**, she's got four volumes of other stuff, so there's 5 CDs, and I got an LP from Austria that I found on eBay so I'd have one of her records that I could play. Cort bought a lot of the 78s that were out there.

- (NC) Where did you get them?
- (CD) A lot of them on eBay. And I took them and I played them on an actual Victrola so I could hear what they would have sounded like.
- (NC) No way! How did you come by that?
- (CD) I have an ex-relative who has one and she let me play them.
- (NC) I'll bet Mike (Suttles) was pleased with all of this.
- (CD) Yes, I think he was. I was afraid maybe we took a little longer than he had expected. He never said anything like that, but I was beginning to feel like "I hope this sounds awesome". We spent a lot of time, too, even after the music started sounding really good in the mixes, we spent a lot of time just making minor adjustments, because, what I want to do...I think our whole mission here was to just get anybody interested in liking the Sara Martin songs. And if there is something about the recording that's a turnoff, say, okay, my old amplifier is making this hissing sound in a couple of the songs. It was making this weird whistle and you have to engineer that out. Even though you probably wouldn't think that you'd notice that, you would hear it. It would factor in to how much or whether or not you liked the song. We had to do the very best we could to clean that up.
- (NC) So is it out of your hands now, being printed?
- (LJD) Almost there, almost there. We've got to finish the artwork up, probably today or tomorrow...
- (NC) Who's doing that?
- (LJD) Steven Clark.
- (NC) The Ass Haulers guy?
- (LJD) Yeah. Although Cort came up with the mock up; he had images we wanted to use.
- (CD) Yeah. "Late Last Night Elixir of Sara Martin". The name came about from a friend in another conversation, not about this record, but he sent me a picture, a Facebook thing, of a 1920s tonic bottle and it said "This is why our ancestors never called in sick to work." And it's a bottle and the ingredients are cocaine, cannabis...that's what's in it. And it just clicks with me that we are making an elixir of Sara Martin. I looked up elixir and it said it's used to breathe new life into or turn into gold. And I'm like...wonderful, great! So I got to thinking about that bottle, so when you see the album cover...I made antique medicine bottles and I gave them to Steven and he has made this wonderful layout for us.
- (LJD) We're into having real things. Like on the Midnight Jubilee album, Cort made that sign that lights up.
- (CD) Yeah, I want hands on, organic everything.
- (Pause while I get a sneak peek. It's perfect.)
- (LJD) And on the back, it says "Cures these blues" with the track listing. And here's a little Sara background information.
- (NC) Is there anything we haven't talked about that you would like me to include?
- (CD) I have something that I'd like to add. When we went to do this as a band, any band that would be doing this stuff, but particularly for us... there're no electric guitars. There are no bass guitars, there are no drum sets. The horns that are in it aren't saxophones...they're flugelhorns and trumpets, tubas...marching band instruments. So, all of the instruments that you would think of as blues instruments...they weren't even on the scene. So when we went to listen to these things, we rounded up her whole catalog and went through it to find the portion we could probably do. The other songs were great, but they were either a little too racy, or they're talking about things like...you don't wanna go there.
- (LJD) Like the woman who was after her man, she's gonna go slit her throat. Not really Garvin Gate material.
- (CD) Yeah, so, there's that. So we ended up with these and I took them to the guys...here you go. And Brian, who played saxophone, he's a jazz professor so he gets it. But Scott and Jason were like "There are no drums. Where's the bass?" I said "There's not any. It's a tuba, or it's a wood block." So we had to reimagine them, imagine what that would sound like, but we're not just going to take that song and play it just like that but with a drum beat. We're gonna put a funk grove from the 60's, an early soul beat. That "Achin' Hearted Blues"? It's the drumbeat from Lowell Fulson's "Tramp". (Pause for Cort's spot on vocal recreation of the backbeat from Tramp!) We put that stuff underneath it, and we had to think all of that stuff up. And the thing is, when we distilled it all down, decided which of the songs we wanted to play, on a lot of them, Sara Martin is the actual writer of the song. I think that's one of the things that separates her from a lot of her peers.
- (NC) Now I can't wait to listen to the tracks again with all of this background information.
- (CD) Well, then my work here is done!

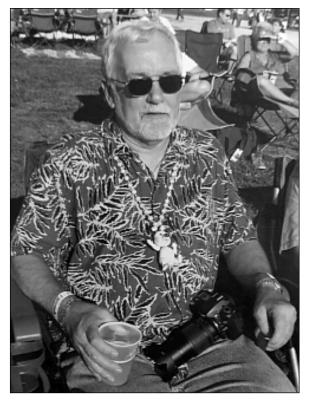
Be sure to catch Laurie Jane and the 45s and Friends on the Four Roses Stage at Garvin Gate on Saturday October 13th at 7:15.





Remembering Bob Cox

by Keith S. Clements



I clearly recall the first time I met Bob Cox. It was a blues performance at the Rudyard Kipling featuring Liz Pennock and Dr. Blues on July 8th, 1997. I was anticipating the show for I had seen this talented duo at the 1996 Chicago Blues Festival, playing with a 94-year-old blues belter, Diamond Teeth Mary. As it turned out, there was just one other person, Bob Cox, there besides my wife and me, to enjoy an evening of classic swing and contemporary blues and Boogie Woogie. With Liz playing piano and Paul (Dr. Blues) playing a variety of guitars, they performed as if the back room was filled with 100 people instead of just the three of us. It was like our own private blues concert with no separation between the audience and performers. We all became one, joking and singing together.

Bob had just moved to Louisville from Birmingham Alabama was checking out the blues scene. Because he was knowledgeable about all aspects of the blues, I told him about the Kentuckiana Blues Society and its activities. With the unwritten rule being "attend three meetings and you are in", Bob was elected to the KBS board at the October 1997 meeting.

Over the next 11 years, he would contribute articles and photographs for our newsletter, the Blues News. His positive attitude and sly sense of humor made for interesting board meetings. Bob's RATs (random-ass thoughts) pushed us to be more creative and think out of the blues box. He soon took on the role of membership chairman and held that till 2002. Bob and Brenda Major, who was KBS president at the time, collaborated on an extensive interview with master harp man Jim Rosen at his home just 3 months before Jim died. Jim's story was published in the March and April 1998 issues of the Blues News. Bob and Brenda would collaborate again in 1999 for an in-depth article on guitarist Mark Stein.

Bob was on the cover the September 1999 issue of the Blues News, displaying a t-shirt that said "Play the blues, damn it " while Jimmy Roberts performed. He also created comical graphic itineraries for promoting our annual Blues Cruises on Da Blues Bus.

Bob served on the KBS board until August 2008, when he followed his life partner, Brenda, who retired from the board earlier that year. Besides appreciating the blues, Bob enjoyed good cuisine and I would occasionally see both of them dining at local restaurants. Bob passed away on August 1st 2018, following a four-year battle with cancer. He donated his body to the University of Louisville Medical School. There was a celebration of his life at the Flame Run Glass Studio, where he had pursued artistic endeavors late in life, on August 18th.

I still miss Bob's hearty laugh and his wit.







The 2018 Garvin Gate Blues Festival will be held on Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13. This is the 30th anniversary of the festival's inception and the 23rd time the event has been held. Though it's been 30 years since its origination, lack of funding and administrative support stopped the festival from 1999 through 2006. It started in a small parking lot by the former Rudyard Kipling in 1988, and with its resurrection in 2007, it has only grown in stature from its humble beginning to last year's estimated 23,000 attendance at the Oak Street and Garvin Gate location. The festival admission is *free* to the public with approximately 50 arts tents and several food vendors available and two separate stages for continuous music. The lineup for this year's festival is as follows:



Four Roses Stage, Friday October 12

6:30 PM - Friday's opening act is **Jamiah Rogers**, who is proclaimed to be "The BAA-DEST Bad Blues Man in Chicago Land, They call him The Blues Superman". Jamiah grew up in a household of musicians and started playing drums at age 3. He recorded his first album "In The Pocket" at age 7. By age 12, he had won a Chicago Music Award three times for the most talented kid under 12. His father moved him to the guitar and vocals leading him to win the Award again for his live rendition of Voodoo Child as a young teen. He released his second album, "Taking The Stage" in 2012 at the age of 16 under the name of Jamiah On Fire and The Red Machine.



8:15 PM - **L.C. Williams and The Driver**. Lauren Williams is one of a handful of major female harmonica players. Her vocals are compared to those of Sue Foley. Teamed with guitarist Trent Souder, the duo started in Maine and played with a number of bands over the years. Now located in Saratoga, Florida, the duo shifts around from their twosome to three or four players. Their sound is cited as hard-driving blues like the old-school 50's and 60's Chicago-style bands.



10:00 PM - **Andy T Band** led by Andy T (Talamantez), a guitar extravaganza featuring not only Andy T, but also Texas guitar legend Anson Funderburgh. Anson is also the producer of all of Andy T's albums including the 2017 album shown at left. They are joined by Alabama Mike (Michael Benjamin) on vocals and harp. Andy T shifted from aerospace work to full-time music in 1997. Meanwhile gospel singer Mike decided to switch to the blues in 1999. Bob Corritore and Rick Estrin led the two to team up. Having seen them at Stevie Ray's, I can promise an excellent show.



Info + Kentucky Blues Stage

7:20 PM - **One Shot Johnny**, led by guitarist and vocalist Randy Colvin with Joe Shirley on bass and vocals and Jeremiah Kelly on drums, are from Greensburg, KY and are certainly local favorites in the region. The band was selected to represent the Kentuckiana Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis in early 2018. They mix many original songs with songs from the blues greats.



9:10 PM - Ladies Sing The Blues is a rotating conglomerate of women that joins together to promote women in their community who are recognized for their vocal talents. The group on this year's stage will be La Toye Montgomery, who graduated from the Youth Performing Arts School and has been in local stage productions, Lainey Brown who started in church choirs and Jennifer Lauletta, who performs in floor show bands.



Saturday, October 13, Four Roses Stage

2:00 PM - The day opens with **The Pearls**, a trio of ladies consisting of sisters Joyce and Deborah Belt with Beverly Gant. Their first performances were held back in the 60's. They performed at the 2018 Derby Festival and the Louisville World Fest among other events. Their powerhouse R&B harmonies will get everyone moving and they are noted for their stylish flair.



3:15 PM - King Bee & The Stingers (Not to be confused with Louisville's KingBees). This Bloomington, Indiana band represented their region at the 2018 International Blues Challenge. 24 year old Sarah Menefee is a strong blues belter. Her father, Mark Menefee, blows a mean harp and provides vocals as well. DK Buchanon on guitar, Ken Meadows on bass and Eric Gaylord on drums completes the group. Together they were an extremely popular act at the 2018 Madison Ribberfest Blues & Barbeque Festival.



4:30 PM - Django Knight is a 24 year old guitarist from Indianapolis. At the age of 15, he received the Robert Johnson award. By age 17, he had received endorsements from Fender, Dunlop and Eminence Speakers. In 2012, he released his first official EP "To: Mr. All Talk" and has recently followed that up with a second, self-titled EP. His soul, rock & blues music is noted to provide an "electrifying groove that will make your soul move". Django cites that he wants to lead the young generation with his love and passion for music.



5:45 PM - Mississippi Adam Riggle started his career at the age of 13, playing in Smitty's Red Top, a Clarksdale Mississippi juke joint. Adam has played with many of the major blues performers over the years including Big Jack Johnson, Leon Russell, and Jimmy Johnson among others. He has played in juke joints, bars and festivals throughout the Midwest. It is cited that Adam plays for people who enjoy the blues and shifts his style from the Delta, North Hill Country and Chicago styles with some classic blues rock thrown in. With James Warfield on bass and Lenny Popp on drums, Adam is cited as Louisville's own Delta blues man.



7:15 PM - Louisville's Laurie Jane and The 45's are well known for their many appearances around town in many different venues. Their sound is described as a melting pot of 1950's big city electric and country blues mixed with high energy sounds of early rockabilly and soul. Lead singer Laurie Jane Duggins infuses the sound with a jazz influence, described by da Mudcats vocalist Sue O'Neil as " a lovely, classic clear voice...that fits into an era where vocalists really sang." The group is further led by Cort Duggins' 12-string slide guitar, Jason Embry's upright bass and Scott Dugdale's' drums. The group will be releasing their new album from Down in The Alley Records, a tribute to Louisville's Sara Martin, at Garvin Gate. "Friends" from the recording will be performing alongside the 45's to support the album release.



8:45 PM - Danielle Nicole (Schneblen) was part of the trio *Trampled Underfoot* with brothers Nick on guitar and Kris on drums. Danielle was the bass player and shared vocals with Nick. Nick and Danielle both moved on to front their own bands. In early 2018, Danielle released "Cry No More" with powerhouse guitarists Sonny Landreth, Walter Trout, Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Jonny Lee Schell making appearances. With that lineup, it is obvious that Danielle brings driving blues to the festival.



10:00 PM - The Keeshea Pratt Band is based out of Houston. In 2018, the band took first place in the Band Division of the International Blues Challenge. Keeshea followed that up with the album "Believe" in May, 2018. The title cut is a very strong blues song citing you must believe in yourself. The album mixes classic soul, with the blues and a little New Orleans jazz. The horn-driven band will certainly provide a strong energetic finish to the Garvin Gate Festival.

Info + Kentucky Blues Stage - Saturday, October 13



4:05 - 4:25 PM and 5:20 - 5:40 PM - da Mudcats, in various incarnations, have played every Garvin Gate festival since the initial show in 1988. In 2006, the full band was presented with the Sylvester Weaver Award. The perennial favorites are led by the dynamic vocals of KBS Board member Sue O'Neill with Rob Pickett on guitar, Gene Wickliffe on drums, Wes Burgiss on keyboards, and Brendan Lewis on bass. Their most recent album "Easy Does It" was released on Down In The Alley Records.



6:40 - 7:10 PM and 8:20 - 8:40 PM - The Dirty Church Revival has been playing "absolute soul power no matter the sonic context" in the Louisville area for over ten years. The group, consisting of Danny Miller on vocals, Tim Ragan on guitar, Chet Sturgener on drums, Steve Sturgill on guitar, Mike Hood on keyboards & Joe Easley on bass, will deliver a rollicking good time.

The Sylvester Weaver Award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies the goals of the Kentuckiana Blues Society (KBS) and will be awarded during the Garvin Gate Blues Festival. Past winners are:

- 2017 Gary Sampson, former KBS President, Germantown Schnitzelburg Blues Festival co-founder, WCHQ
- 2016 Mike Suttles, Garvin Gate organizer, owner of Down In The Alley Records
- 2015 Natalie Carter, KBS Membership Director and Newsletter Editor since 2000
- 2014 Mark "Big Poppa" Stampley, Louisville blues artist
- 2013 Byron Davies, Louisville blues artist
- 2012 Howard Rosenberg, Garvin Gate Blues Festival Committee Chairman
- 2011 Jimmy Brown, Louisville blues artist and former owner of Guitar Emporium
- 2010 Robbie Bartlett, Louisville blues artist
- 2009 Jim Masterson, Louisville blues artist
- 2008 Joe DeBow, Louisville blues artist
- 2007 Sonny Sitgraves, Louisville blues artist
- 2006 da Mudcats (Mike Lynch, Gene Wickliffe, Rob Pickett), Louisville blues band
- 2005 John Burgard, Louisville blues artist
- 2004 Keith Clements, founding KBS member & former president, blues journalist
- 2003 Sue O'Neil, Louisville blues artist
- 2002 Mark Stein, Louisville blues artist
- 2001 Scott Mullins, KBS founding member, blues promoter & former host of WFPK's Blues Party
- 2000 Rocky Adcock, co-founder and first president of the KBS, musician, local blues musician advocate
- 1999 Tanita Gaines, Louisville blues artist
- 1998 Joey Lamont Gillespie, Louisville blues artist, co-founder of Germantown Schnitzelburg Blues Festival
- 1997 Junie "Smoketown Red" Downs, Louisville blues artist
- 1996 Mary Ann Fisher, Back-up singer for Ray Charles in the 1950's

- 1995 Fred Murphy, Louisville blues artist with The 26th Street Blues Band
- 1994 Perry Aberli, promoter of the Midwest Blues Fest, South Bend IN
- 1993 Winston Hardy, Local blues artist with "Mumbo Jumbo" CD
- 1992 Pen Bogert, Oral History Project Developer
- 1991 Foree Wells, Louisville blues artist with CD "It's a New Day Brother" finally released in 2006
- 1990 Jim Rosen, Louisville blues artist, Fox 100.5 FM radio show
- 1989 Henry Woodruff, Louisville blues artist, House Band at The Pleasure Inn







So, who is Sylvester Weaver, the namesake of the aforementioned award? Sylvester was born in Louisville in 1896, although some histories show his birth in 1897. He lived most of his life in the Smoketown area as did his parents. Little information is known about his early years, but there is some indication that he had some connection to the Louisville Jug Band led by Earl MacDonald and Clifford Hayes.

Weaver first surfaced in New York City in 1923, where on October 23 he accompanied vaudeville blues singer Sara Martin, shown with Weaver in the above left picture, on two songs "Longing For Daddy Blues" and "I've Got To Go and Leave My Daddy Behind" on the Okeh record label. His guitar work apparently impressed the label producers as two weeks later had him record "Guitar Blues" and "Guitar Rag". The recordings are the first known recorded country blues and the first known recordings of a slide guitar. On "Guitar Rag", Weaver played a *guitjo*, which is essentially a six-string banjo with a guitar neck. "Guitar Rag became a noted classic. Bob Wills and The Texas Playboys covered the song as "Steel Guitar Rag", which then became a country music standard.

Weaver recorded approximately 50 songs between 1923 through 1927. He was sometimes accompanied by Sara Martin or singer Helen Humes. Weaver played his guitar bottleneck style, using his knife as slide. His recordings were successful, but nonetheless, he retired from music after 1927 and returned to Louisville. A complete collection of his recordings was released on two CD's in 1992.

Upon his return, job listings show him as a porter, packer and chauffeur and perhaps totally displaced during the Great Depression. He showed up again in 1949 living in a basement apartment near Cherokee Park with his wife Dorothy. He died in 1960 a relative unknown. A renewed interest in the old country blues musicians brought new attention to his work and led to the release of the previously cited collection.

Upon his death, Sylvester was buried in a nearly anonymous grave. In 1991, the Kentuckiana Blues Society raised funds to right the longtime wrong of this musician. On Sunday, March 29, 1992, a dedication ceremony was held placing the tombstone shown to the right on Sylvester's final resting place in the Old Louisville Cemetery, high on the hill facing Poplar Level Road.



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Garvin Gate & Blues Festival

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6:30-7:15 Jamiah "BluesSuperMan" Rogers Band 8:15-9:00 L. C. Williams and The Driver 10:00-11:15 Andy T Band featuring Alabama Mike and Anson Funderburgh

Info+ Kentucky Blues Stage

7:20-8:00 One Shot Johnny

9:10-9:55 Ladies Sing The Blues featuring LaToye

Montgomery, Lainey Brown and Jennifer Lauletta

Saturday, October 13 Four Roses Stage on Oak St.

2:00-2:45 The Pearls

3:15-4:00 King Bee & The Stingers

4:30-5:15 Django Knight

5:45-6:30 Mississippi Adam Riggle Band

:15-8:15 Laurie Jane & the 45s and Friends

8:45-9:45 Danielle Nicole

10:00-11:15 Keeshea Pratt Band

Info+ Kentucky Blues Stage

4:05-4:25, 5:20-5:40 da Mudcats

6:40-7:10 8:20-8:40 The Dirty Church Reviva













Laurie Jane & the 45s



















garvin gate blues festival.com

















Blues in the Schools and Blues for Youth Day 2018

by Matthew Floyd

The Kentuckiana Blues Society is now in our second year of co-sponsoring a "Blues in the Schools" program and "Blues for Youth Day" in Jefferson County. Garvin Gate Blues Festival organizers Mike Suttles and Howard Rosenberg started these efforts with the help of co-sponsors Facilities Management Services, Down in the Alley Records and the Garvin Gate Blues Festival. Last year, KBS became involved as a sponsor and co-planner. We were also successful in securing our own Louisville Mayor as co-sponsor in the programs via the approval of a budget from a Mayor's Arts Fund Grant. The KBS would like to extend their appreciation to Metro Government for their continued support in helping us build sustainable programs. So, as we are finalizing the last-minute details and getting ready for another great year of smiling elementary students exposed to the blues, I wanted to give a preview of what is planned this year.

On September 18 and 19, we have Tas Cru coming to Lincoln Elementary Performing Arts School *(LPAS)*. On October 10 and 11, we have Mark "Big Poppa" Stampley and Geno Simpson coming to Indian Trail and Eisenhower Elementary schools. 5th grade students from three other schools will be bused to LPAS for these presentations.

For the Blues in the Schools program, we had the opportunity to bring back Tas Cru for 2 dates at LPAS. Tas performed a BITS presentation at LPAS the year he performed for KBS' 25th Anniversary. LPAS 5th graders will share auditorium space with Roosevelt Perry 5th graders. On the next day, Bloom and Carter Elementary will be bused to LPAS to see TAS' BITS presentation. We are very grateful that "Down in the Alley Records" made possible the busing of 3 other schools to LPAS and so that we can reach



ords" made possible the busing of 3 other schools to LPAS and so that we can reach many more students. The program includes providing the schools several links to blues education via a variety of sources so the teachers and students can conduct in class discussion prior to the blues musician performing for the schools. This year, we were very grateful that Tas Cru donated 5 each of his kids CDs called "Doggone Blues" and "Even Bugs Sing the Blues". These were also delivered to each school prior to the performance.

Tas plays with a drummer and his presentation starts with a song from the "Doggone" CD and he then discusses what blues music is and the meaning behind the blues. He tells some stories and elaborates on people in blues history. He illustrates how the blues are happy and sad and everything in between. He touches on the blues migration from the South to the North and how Louisville fits in as a migration city to Chicago. He will perform some blues songs, a classic blues, a song that tells a story and a Robert Johnson "sad song/goodbye song". Tas discusses instruments and touches on homemade instruments, specifically the Cigar Box and Diddley Bows. And, of course the blues guitar and harmonica will be exposed to the students. He ends his presentation with some interactive teaching on the subjects of call and response, African drum music, and he forms a small ensemble with a volunteer teacher and some students to learn basic harmonica.

Last year, we were grateful to have Mark "Big Poppa" Stampley and Geno Simpson perform for the schools and they did an excellent job, so we wanted them to come back. We provide the teachers and students with surveys and last year the student feedback showed they really enjoyed Big Poppa's live music. Live music cannot be underestimated, it is true and real. Performing live might be related to the blues like this...it cannot be faked, you either bring it from the heart and soul or even 5th graders will call you out. For example, when I read more than one student survey commenting how they like Big Poppa's facial expressions when he plays, it tells me they get it and we are reaching them. These two guys were great with the students last year. Big Poppa plays some songs that are personal to him and relate to Kentucky. He interacts with the students and discusses the

Support for the "Blues in the Schools" and "Blues for Youth" programs is provided by:











importance of writing down one's thoughts and how that ties into songwriting. He whiteboards using the students' ideas to create a brand new blues song. Geno forms a small ensemble with a volunteer teacher and students to learn basic harmonica.

For the Blues for Youth Day, which starts at Saturday morning at 11am on October 13th this year, KBS will be doing a short blues history presentation and giving out FREE harmonicas to both kids and adults in attendance. We are excited to have Bloom Elementary's "Sonic Bloom" performing some blues related and African drum music. I will be doing two beginner's harmonica lessons for both the kids and adults in attendance. The first lesson will be on straight harp and playing a melody. The second lesson will be on playing cross harp, the blues scale and bending notes. Next, we will discuss mentoring and preserving the blues. Lastly, I will play with my mentor, Walter Lay and his granddaughter, Alix Lay (a student from Girls Rock Louisville) so we can illustrate playing blues harmonica using straight harp on "Bright Lights Big City" and using cross-harp on "Shake Your Hips" and "I Ain't Superstitious". To conclude the Blues for Youth Day, we will thank all the sponsors, volunteers, parents and students for another great year. We will then welcome everyone to the most multiracial, intergenerational, and most prestigious music and arts festival that Jefferson County has to offer, the Garvin Gate Blues Festival.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep-30	Oct-1	2	င	4	O	9
Bearno's by the Bridge -	J. Render's Southern	Henry Clay's House	Check's Cafe – KBS Board	Henry Clay's House (Lexington) -	Banners Lexington) – Five Below Band 9:00	Check's BBQ & Blues (Middletown) – TBA
Open Jam	Table & Bar	(Lexington) -	Meeting 7:00	Nick Stump Band 8:00	Bearno's 502 (JTown) – The Blue Crawdads	Chenault Vineyards (Richmond) – Julie Tussey
Circles 7:00	(Lexiligion) – Open	I onieville Palace	(New Albany) — Immy G& the	The Ronevard Trio 7:00	Stevenson 8:00	Prolid Mary BRO – (I extractor) – Five Below
Mojo's Bonevard (Evansville IN)	Tee Dee's Blues &	Shakey Graves and	Sidewinders	Stevie Rav's – TNT Open Jam 8:00	Chenault Vinevards (Richmond) – Julie	Seasons Lodge (Nashville IN) – King Bee &
Meg Williams 6:00	Jazz Club (Lexington)	The Wild Reeds	Sidebar Grill (Lexington) –	Volare – Robbie Bartlett Duo	Tussey Band 6:30	The Stingers 9:00
Shamrock B&G (Lexington) -	Tee Dee Young Band	Off Broadway	Willie Eames 6:00		Elkhorn Tavern (Lexington) – RC and the	Southern Indiana Bacon & Blues Festival
Open Jam	& Friends	(Madison IN) Jam 8:00	Stevie Ray's - Fatt Matt and		NightShades 7:00	(Elizabeth, IN)
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(Lexington) – Eric Gales and	CHALLENGE					Jug Band 9:00
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Bearno's by the Bridge -	J. Render's Southern	Henry Clay's House	Check's Cafe - KBS Board	Blind Squirrel - Blues Union	Bearno's 502 (J'Town) - The Blue Crawdads	Check's BBQ & Blues (Middletown) – TBA
Open Jam	Table & Bar	(Lexington) -	Meeting 7:00	Central Bank (Lexington) - Five Below	Chateau Thomas Winery (Nashville IN) -	Elk Creek Vineyards (Owenton) – John Ford
Big Rock Jazz & Blues Fest	(Lexington) – Open	Northside Sheiks 8:00	Floyd County Brewing Co	Henry Clay's House (Lexington) -	Paul Bertsch Trio 7:00	Garvin Gate Blues Festival
Shamrock B&G (Lexington) -	Jam with D.J. Rice	Off Broadway	(New Albany) - Jimmy G & the	Nick Stump Band 8:00	Check's BBQ & Blues (Middletown) - Big	Haunted Huntingburg Blues Festival
Open Jam	Tee Dee's Blues &	(Madison IN) Jam 8:00	Sidewinders	Mercury Ballroom - Devon Allman	Poppa Stampley 8:00	(Huntingburg IN)
Southern Indiana Bacon &	Jazz Club (Lexington)	Stevie Ray's -	Sidebar Grill (Lexington) –	Project with Duane Betts 8:00	Garvin Gate Blues Festival	Huber's Orchard & Winery (Borden IN) -
Blues Festival (Elizabeth, IN)	lee Dee Young Band	Blues Jam 8:00	Willie Eames 6:00	Mojo's Boneyard (Evansville IN) –	Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00	Blues and Greys 1:00
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Stevie Rav's – Chuck Marcum's	Tee Dee's Blues &	(Madison IN) Jam 8:00	Willie Eames 6:00	Stevie Rav's – TNT Open Jam 8:00	Manchester Music Hall (Lexington) - Johny	Levee at the River House – Robbie Bartlett
Jam Session 5:00	Jazz Club (Lexington)	Stevie Rav's -	Stevie Rav's - Rock Bottom	Volare – Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	Lang 7:00	MOM's Music (Melwood Ave) – Open Jam
	Tee Dee Young Band	Blues Jam 8:00	Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo		Ott's Tavern and Sportsbar - The Amazing	Stevie Ray's - Jay and Those Other Guys /
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Shamrock B&G (Lexington) -	Tee Dee's Blues &	(Madison IN) Jam 8:00	Willie Eames 6:00	Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam 8:00	France Band 9:00	Check's BBQ & Blues (Middletown) – TBA
Open Jam	Jazz Club (Lexington)	Stevie Ray's -	Stevie Ray's - Boogie Men	Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	Stevie Ray's - The KingBees / Jimmy Davis	Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00
Stevie Ray's - KBS Blues	Tee Dee Young Band	Blues Jam 8:00	Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo			Proud Mary BBQ – (Lexington) – Five Below
Challenge Contests	& Friends					Stevie Ray's - da Mudcats / Duck and Cover
						Talon Winery (Shelbyville) – Double Dog Dare
						Trails End & The PanHead Saloon – Dallas
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Shamrock B&G (Lexington) – Jam	Tee Dee's Blues &	(Madison IN) Jam 8:00	Willie Eames 6:00	The Boneyard Trio 7:00	Seasons Lodge (Nashville IN) - The Hammer	Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00
Slippery Noodle (Indianapolis)	Jazz Club (Lexington)	Stevie Ray's -	Stevie Ray's - Blues and Greys	Stevie Ray's – TNT Open Jam 8:00	and The Hatchet 9:00	Louisville Palace - Gary Clark Jr 8:00
NapTown Blues Society Blues	Tee Dee Young Band	Blues Jam 8:00	Volare – Robbie Bartlett Duo	Volare – Robbie Bartlett Duo	Stevie Ray's - The Subourbons / Andrea	Seasons Lodge (Nashville IN) – King Bee &
Challenge Contests Stevie Rav's - Chuck Marcum's	& Friends				lanaro	The Stingers 9:00 Stevie Rav's – Bleu Phonque / Shane Dawson

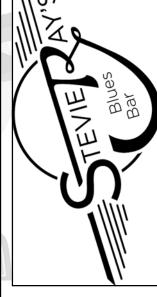
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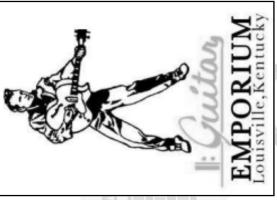


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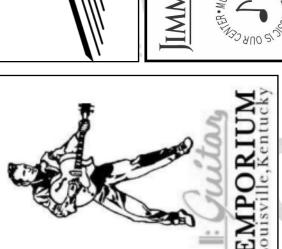
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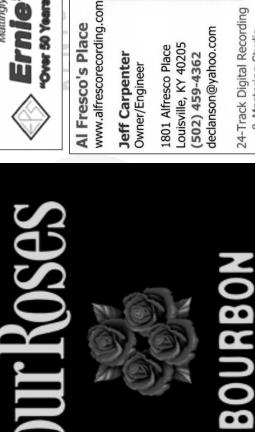




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